

## Supplies

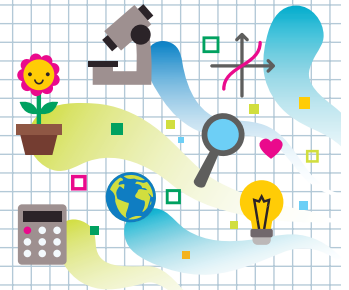
- “Guide for Families” handout
- Clear plastic standup display (optional)
- 15 cupcake liners (color, print, foil or other)
- Marker
- Tape (optional)
- Several craft pompoms in various colors and sizes
- Display table
- Small tongs

## Activity Preparation

- ▶ Purchase or locate items on supply list.
- ▶ Print one copy of the “Guide for Families” handout. Laminate or place in a clear plastic standup display to allow participants to see it more readily.
- ▶ Using the marker, in the bottom of the cupcake liners, write numbers 1 to 15 (one number in each liner).
- ▶ Place the pompoms and cupcake liners on the table. If desired, use the tape to attach the cupcake liners to the table.



# HEADS IN, HEARTS IN



## Cupcake Counting Guide for Families

### Learning Objectives

#### What you need to know:

**Fine motor development** and **hand-eye coordination** are important skills for developing early writing. Children develop fine motor skills when they use their fingers to manipulate toys, food or other objects. Young children need lots of opportunities to practice activities that will strengthen the muscles of the hands and require the eyes and hands to work together. This practice will prepare them to complete self-care tasks such as brushing teeth or tying shoes as well as learning how to hold a pencil and write.

#### What you will do and learn:

In this activity, adults will encourage and support children as they practice their fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination and counting by placing the correct number of pompoms in the cupcake liner.

### Instructions

1. Take a pair of tongs.
2. Look at the bottom of the cupcake liner. Encourage the child to read the number aloud. Assist if needed.
3. Have the child use the tongs to pick up the pompoms, one by one, and place them in the cupcake liner. (If tongs are too difficult, encourage the child to use their fingers.)
4. Encourage the child to count the number of pompoms as they put them in the cupcake liner.
5. Stop adding pompoms when you reach the number on the bottom of the cupcake liner.
6. Remove the pompoms from the cupcake liner and place them back on the table.
7. Choose another cupcake liner to place pompoms into.